

II. REMARKS

A. Introduction

Applicant submits this Response in a bona fide attempt to (i) advance the prosecution of this case, (ii) answer each and every ground of rejection as set forth by the Examiner and (iii) place the claims in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of this Response.

Claims 1 - 17 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-13 and 16-17 have been deemed allowable.

Claims 3-4, 9 and 14-15 have, however, been rejected and, as indicated above, have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim amendments merely make explicit that which was (and is) disclosed or implicit in the original disclosure. The amendments thus add nothing that would not be reasonably apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains.

B. Response to Rejections

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3-4, 9 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." The Examiner has, however, indicated that Claims 3-4, 9 and 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As indicated above, Applicant has rewritten Claims 3-4, 9 and 14-15 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-4, 9 and 14-15 should accordingly be deemed allowable.

C. Prior Art

Applicant has also reviewed the prior art made of record and not relied upon by the Examiner and has found them not to teach or make obvious the present invention.

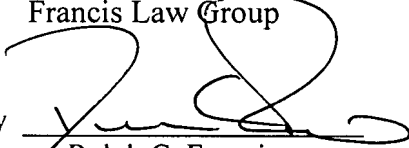
III. CONCLUSION

Applicant, having answered each and every ground of rejection set forth by the Examiner, and having added no new matter, believes that each pending claim in the above-referenced patent application is now in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact his Attorneys of record at the telephone number below to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
Francis Law Group

By


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as "First Class Mail" in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 4, 2007.

Ralph C. Francis

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